THE ETERNALS ™

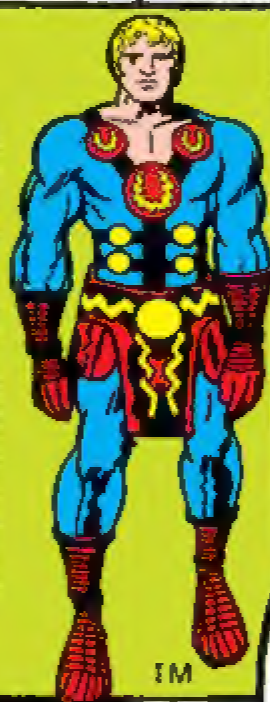
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

30¢ 16 OCT 02334

WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™





IKARUS TRAPPED BY

THE THING IN THE BIG CITY CRYPT!

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY • INKS 'N' LETTERS: MIKE ROYER • COLORING: G. WEIN • EVERYTHING ELSE: ARCHIE GOODWIN

WITH A METROPOLIS AT HIS MERCY, A REPLICA OF ONE OF MARVEL'S **MIGHTIEST** MARAUDERS, POWERED BY **COSMIC** ENERGY, **DEFIES** ALL OPPOSITION TO STOP HIM! BUT, THIS IS NOT A GAME OF "WIN OR LOSE"... BUT WHAT YOU **FIND** WHEN THE DAMAGE IS DONE!

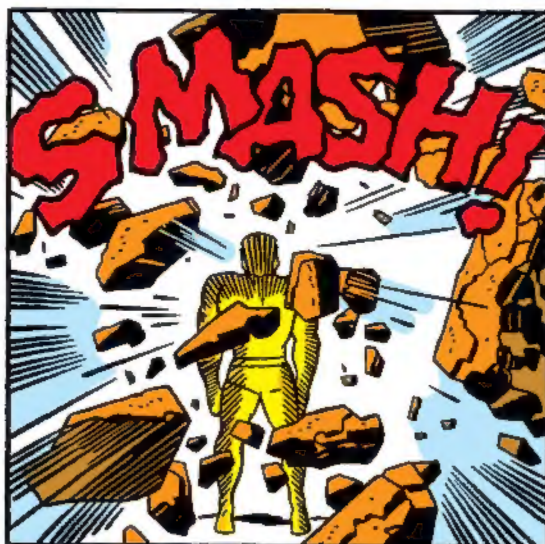
BIG CITY CRYPT




ALTHOUGH THE ELEMENTS FROM THE STARS HAVE INFILTRATED THIS PONDEROUS HULK, I SHALL QUICKLY FIND AN EXIT FOR THEM!
HE WON'T MAKE THAT EASY, SIRE! WITNESS THE FURY BEHIND THOSE EYES!


THE COSMIC BUILD-UP IS AT ITS PEAK! IT FIRES THAT FURY WITH A STRENGTH BEYOND BELIEF!
LET ME FACE HIM, SIRE!
NO! THIS CREATURE SHALL LEARN FEAR FROM ME! IT SHALL DEAL WITH ZURAS HIMSELF!


AARRRR!
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
I CAN'T ALLOW THIS ENCOUNTER! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!


SMASH!


THE FOE IS PUZZLED! THOUGH HE REEKS OF THE STUFF OF STARS, HE CANNOT CONCEIVE OF A MIND WHICH CAN PRODUCE A PROTECTIVE FORCE SHIELD!
HE SHALL STILL ATTACK! SOMEHOW, HE PREVAILS!

SUDDENLY, THE ARMS OF GREAT ZURAS LASH OUT AND GRIP THE SHOULDER BLADES OF THE GREEN MENACE...





THE PSEUDO-HULK FLAILS AT THE BRIGHT CLOUD OF ESCAPING ENERGY AS IF HE WERE BESET BY DEVILS...

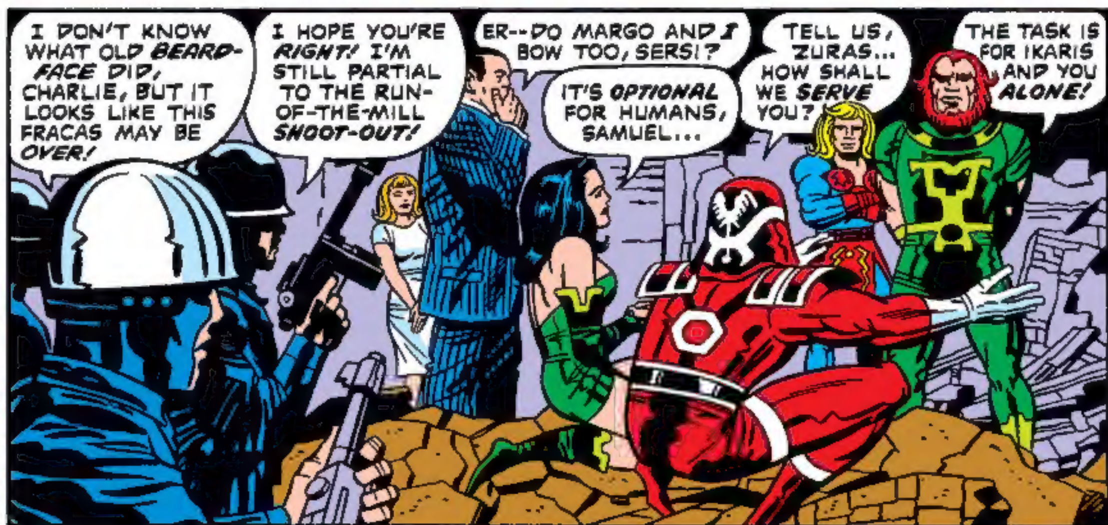


TORN BY FRIGHT, THE HULK LEAPS ACROSS THE CITY LIKE A FLAMING COMET...




I'M CERTAIN THAT HE CAN THUS BE SUBJECTED TO A POINT OF SUFFICIENT RESTRAINT!
I CHARGE YOU TO SEE THAT IT IS DONE! FIND MAKARRI AND TAKE TO THE TASK AT ONCE!


IF GREAT ZURAS COMMANDS, THEN WHO BUT MAKARRI IS EVER FIRST TO RESPOND?
--AND WHO BUT FAITH-FUL SERSI IS EVER GRATEFUL FOR THE RETURN OF MORE OPTIMISTIC TIMES?
PARTIES ARE FOREVER ON HER MIND!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT OLD BEARD-FACE DID, CHARLIE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS FRACAS MAY BE OVER!
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M STILL PARTIAL TO THE RUN-OF-THE-MILL SHOOT-OUT!
ER--DO MARGO AND I BOW TOO, SERSI?
IT'S OPTIONAL FOR HUMANS, SAMUEL...
TELL US, ZURAS... HOW SHALL WE SERVE YOU?
THE TASK IS FOR IKARIS AND YOU ALONE!


IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE FINAL SUBJECTION OF THE HULK MUST BE SEEN TO AT ONCE!
OVERTAKE HIM AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT THIS ENDS WITH-OUT FURTHER INCIDENT!


MEANWHILE...
THERE'S THE HULK, ARTHUR! HE'S LEAPING FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING!
HE'S SHOOTING OFF FIREWORKS!!

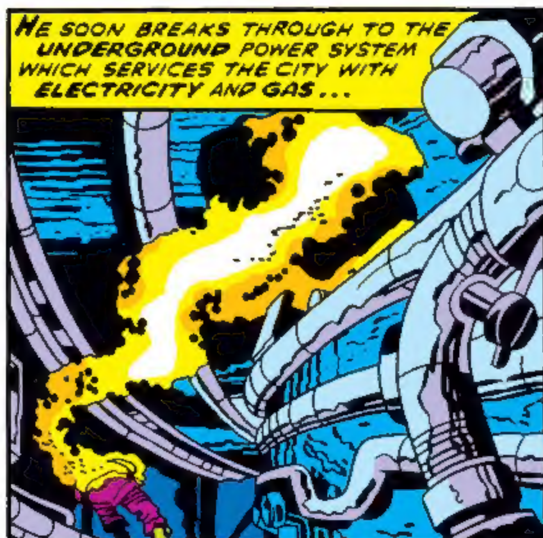

THE COSMIC FIREWORKS DRAIN RELENTLESSLY FROM THE FLEEING HULK! HIS EVERY MANEUVER IS UNABLE TO HALT THE FLOW!..
LOOK! UP THERE--!
SPLIT--! OR HE'LL LAND ON TOP OF US!


HE'S RUNNING WILD -- LIKE A BLAZING TRUCK WITHOUT A DRIVER!
TZAM!
MAN! WHAT A SIGHT!

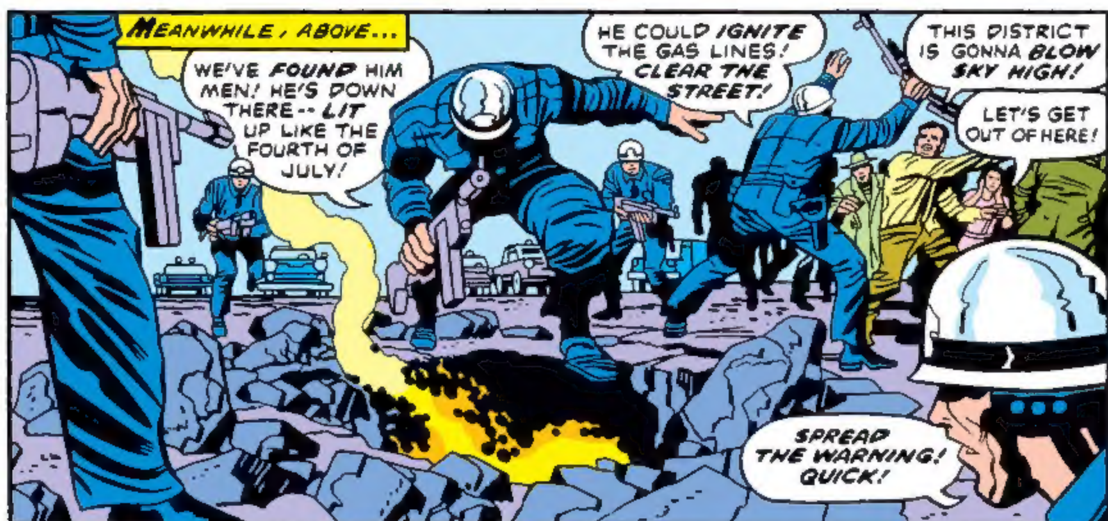

ARRAA!
RUN! RUN!
HE'S RAVING MAD!


IN TRUTH, THE TORMENTED CREATURE SEEMS DRIVEN BY DEMONS. HE TEARS OUT GREAT CHUNKS OF THE CONCRETE STREET...

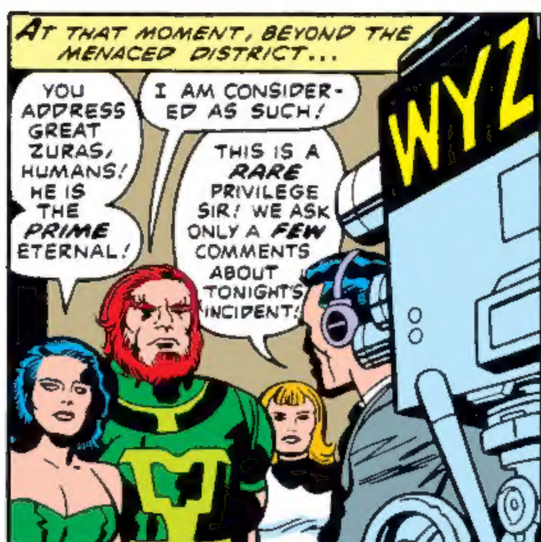

THE DIGGING IS CONTINUOUS AND FRANTIC. IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE HULK VAN-ISHES INTO THE JAGGED SHAFT MADE BY HIS OWN POWERFUL HANDS...


HE SOON BREAKS THROUGH TO THE UNDERGROUND POWER SYSTEM WHICH SERVICES THE CITY WITH ELECTRICITY AND GAS...

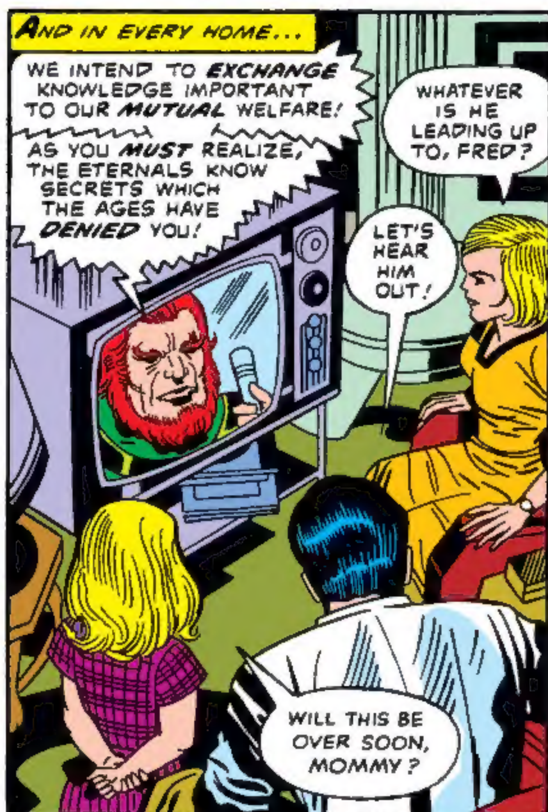

BUT THE FIERY PLAGUE NEVER LEAVES HIM... ALTHOUGH HE GROWS WEAKER AND CRAWLS TO ESCAPE, HIS ATTEMPT IS FRUITLESS...

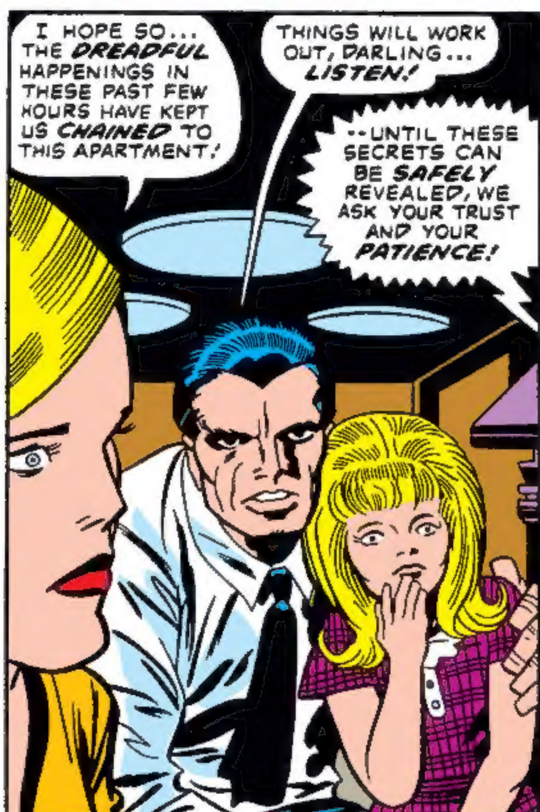

MEANWHILE, ABOVE...
WE'VE FOUND HIM MEN! HE'S DOWN THERE -- LIT UP LIKE THE FOURTH OF JULY!
HE COULD IGNITE THE GAS LINES! CLEAR THE STREET!
THIS DISTRICT IS GONNA BLOW SKY HIGH!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
SPREAD THE WARNING! QUICK!


GO HOME! GO HOME! THIS AREA IS IN DANGER!
THERE'S NEVER A TAXI IN SIGHT WHEN YA NEED ONE!

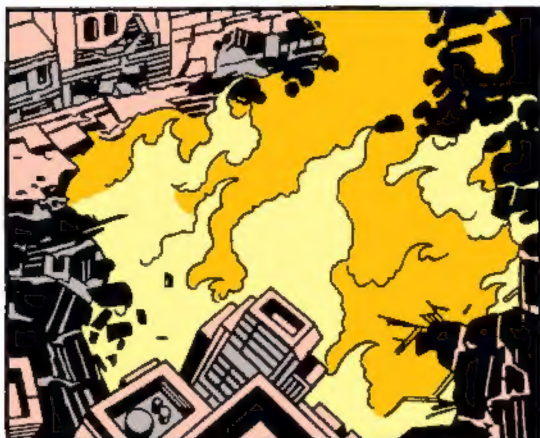

AT THAT MOMENT, BEYOND THE MENACED DISTRICT...
YOU ADDRESS GREAT ZURAS, HUMANS! HE IS THE PRIME ETERNAL!
I AM CONSIDER-ED AS SUCH!
THIS IS A RARE PRIVILEGE SIR! WE ASK ONLY A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT TONIGHT'S INCIDENT!
WYZ

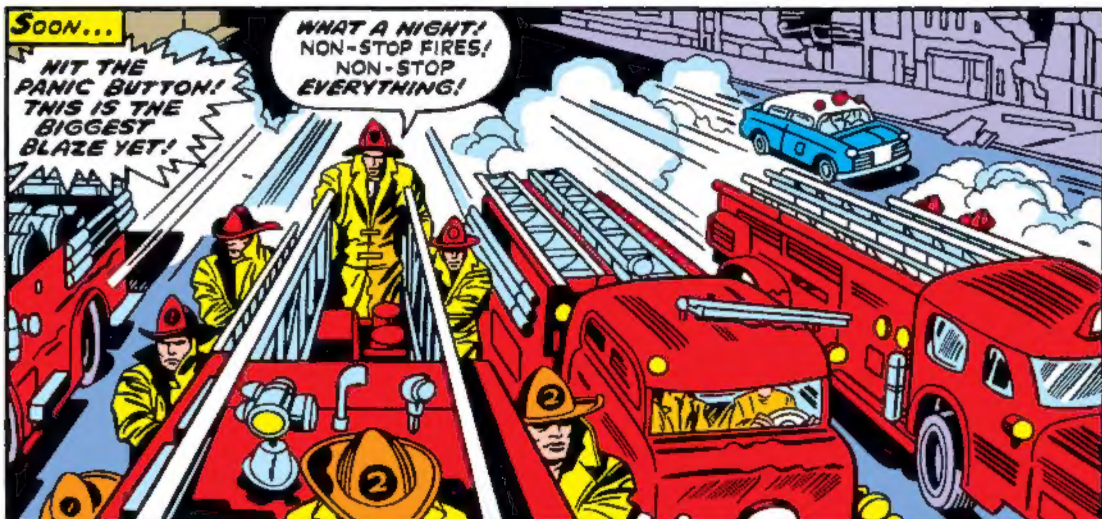
LET 'EM ALL SPEAK!
WHO'S THE FROSTY GUY WITH THE GLASSES?
-ER--MY NAME IS SAMUEL HOLDEN. I-I'M--
HE'S NOT AN ETERNAL. BUT, I FIND HIM A MOST INTRIGUING HUMAN!
THERE ARE HUMANS IN OUR GROUP--AND THEY HAVE SEEN THE WONDERS OF OUR CITY OF OLYMPIA.
HUMANS AND ETERNALS MUST HEREIN BE AS ONE!
MARGO DAMIAN, AS A MEMBER OF THEIR PARTY, CAN YOU TELL US WHY THE ETERNALS STRESS THIS ISSUE?
WYZB

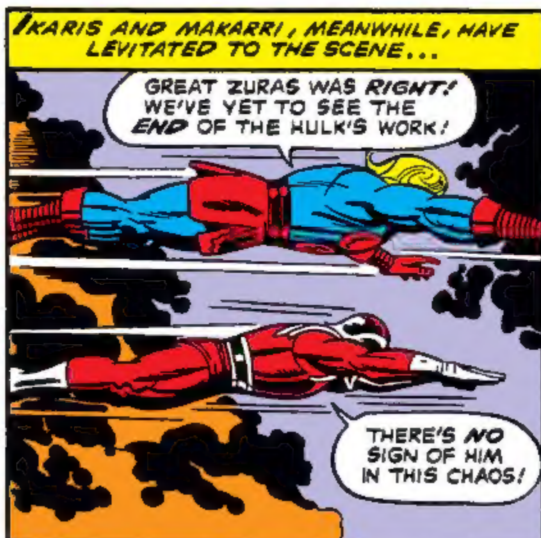

AND IN EVERY HOME...
WE INTEND TO EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE IMPORTANT TO OUR MUTUAL WELFARE!
AS YOU MUST REALIZE, THE ETERNALS KNOW SECRETS WHICH THE AGES HAVE DENIED YOU!
WHATEVER IS HE LEADING UP TO, FRED?
LET'S HEAR HIM OUT!
WILL THIS BE OVER SOON, MOMMY?


I HOPE SO... THE DREADFUL HAPPENINGS IN THESE PAST FEW HOURS HAVE KEPT US CHAINED TO THIS APARTMENT!
THINGS WILL WORK OUT, DARLING... LISTEN!
--UNTIL THESE SECRETS CAN BE SAFELY REVEALED, WE ASK YOUR TRUST AND YOUR PATIENCE!

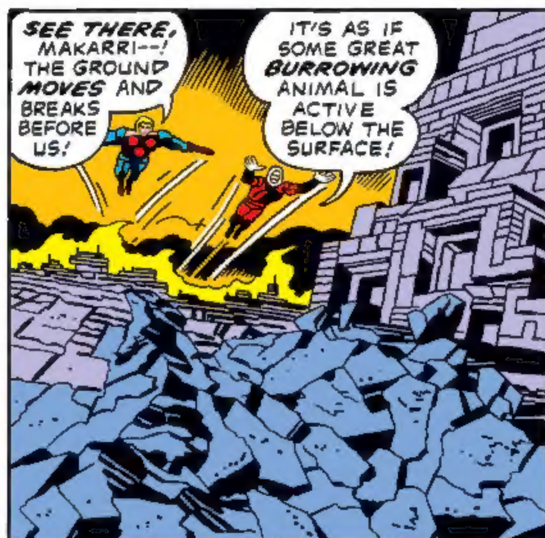

SUDDENLY, A TITANIC EXPLOSION ROCKS THE CENTER OF THE CITY...
WHOOOM!


IN FATAL PROXIMITY WITH THE GAS LINES, THE PSEUDO-HULK HAS FOUND OBLIVION AND LEFT AN INFERNO IN HIS PASSING...


SOON...
HIT THE PANIC BUTTON! THIS IS THE BIGGEST BLAZE YET!
WHAT A NIGHT! NON-STOP FIRES! NON-STOP EVERYTHING!

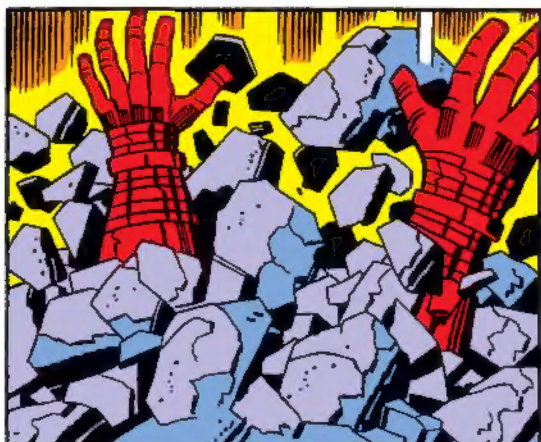

IKARIS AND MAKARRI, MEANWHILE, HAVE LEVITATED TO THE SCENE...
GREAT ZURAS WAS RIGHT! WE'VE YET TO SEE THE END OF THE HULK'S WORK!
THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM IN THIS CHAOS!


PERHAPS HE PERISHED IN THE EXPLOSION! IT'S NOT A DISPLEASING THOUGHT!
WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN OF THAT! REMEMBER OUR TASK...


SEE THERE, MAKARRI--! THE GROUND MOVES AND BREAKS BEFORE US!
IT'S AS IF SOME GREAT BURROWING ANIMAL IS ACTIVE BELOW THE SURFACE!

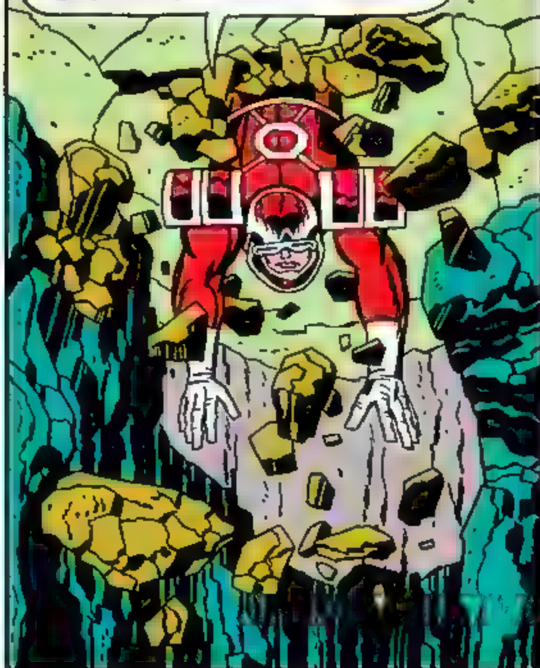

I FEAR THAT WE'VE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF THE HULK!
WILL NOTHING STOP THAT CURSED THING?!
K-K-KRAK!

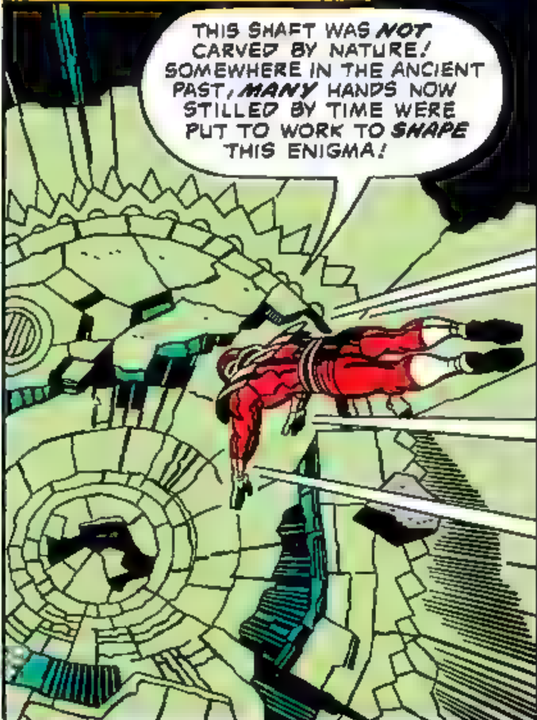

WHAT'S WRONG, IKARIS?! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR FOOTING?
QUICKLY, MAKARRI! MY LEG'S BEEN-- SEIZED!

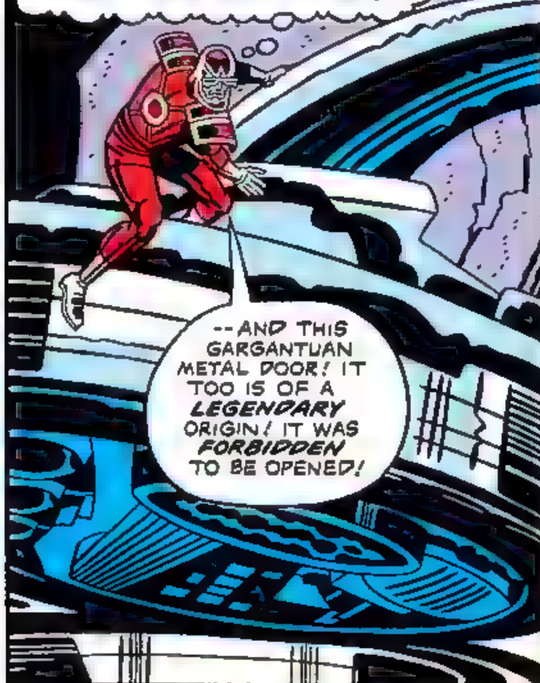

BEFORE MAKARRI CAN REACH HIM, HIS COMPANION IS YANKED FROM SIGHT...


IKARIS!!
IKARIS!
BY THE GODS!!!

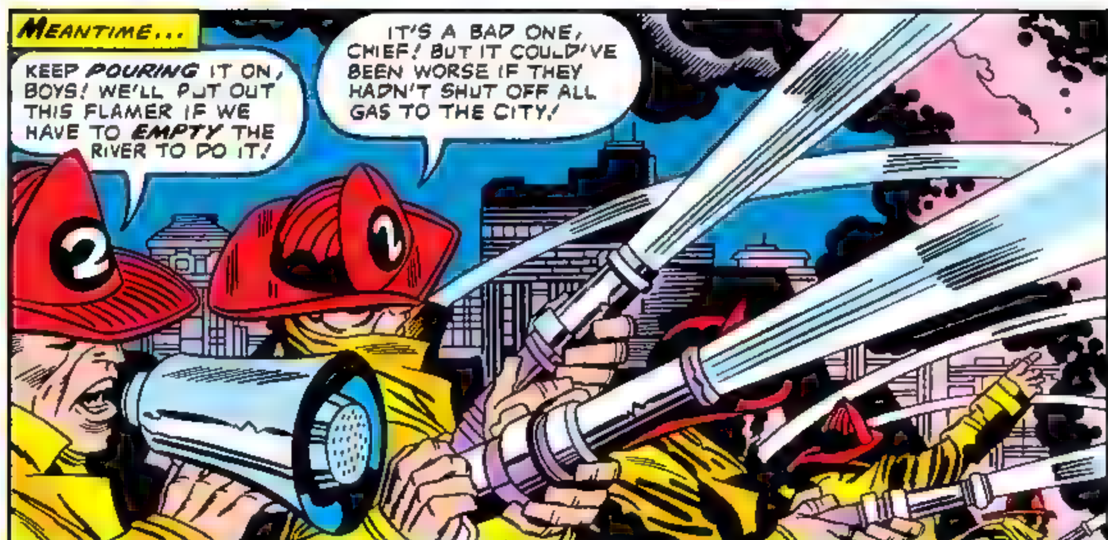

I'LL SOON GET TO THE SOURCE OF THIS FOUL PLAY! IN THIS TASK, THE TRIALS OF IKARIS ARE ALSO MINE!!


MAKARRI SOON BREAKS THROUGH THE BROKEN CONCRETE AND...
GREAT ZURAS! THAT EXPLOSION HAS UNCOVERED A VERITABLE ABYSS BELOW THE CITY STREETS!

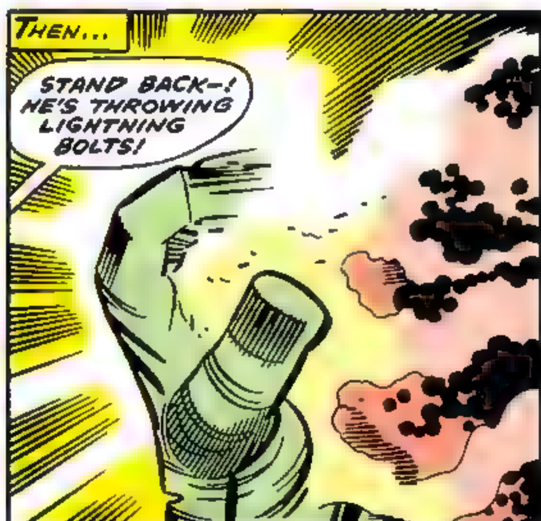

DESCENDING SWIFTLY INTO THE DEPTHS, MAKARRI MAKES AN EVEN MORE ASTONISHING DISCOVERY...
THIS SHAFT WAS NOT CARVED BY NATURE! SOMEWHERE IN THE ANCIENT PAST, MANY HANDS NOW STILLED BY TIME WERE PUT TO WORK TO SHAPE THIS ENIGMA!

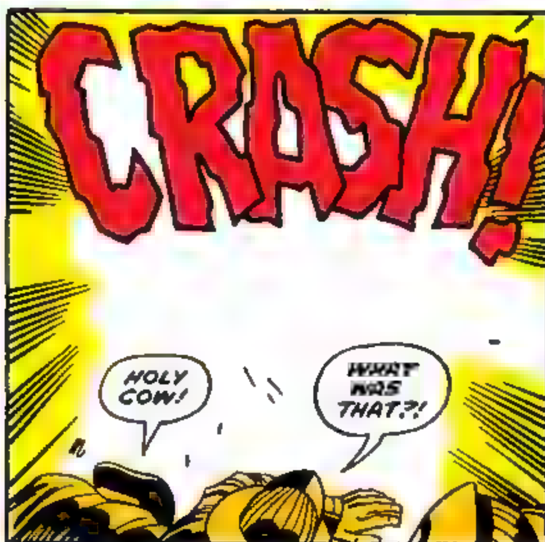

I RECALL A LEGEND THAT EXISTS IN THE DARK RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ETERNALS AND DEVIANTS! IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SOME SORT OF TOMB!
--AND THIS GARGANTUAN METAL DOOR! IT TOO IS OF A LEGENDARY ORIGIN! IT WAS FORBIDDEN TO BE OPENED!


YET, I FIND IT--AJAR! WHO COULD HAVE--?!
I COULD HAVE OPENED IT! AND I DID!!

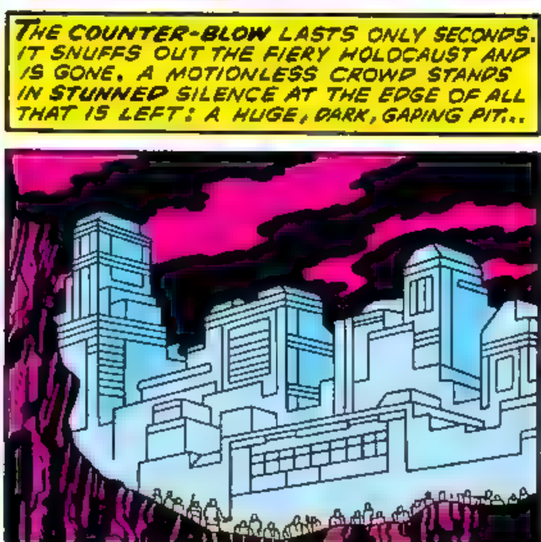




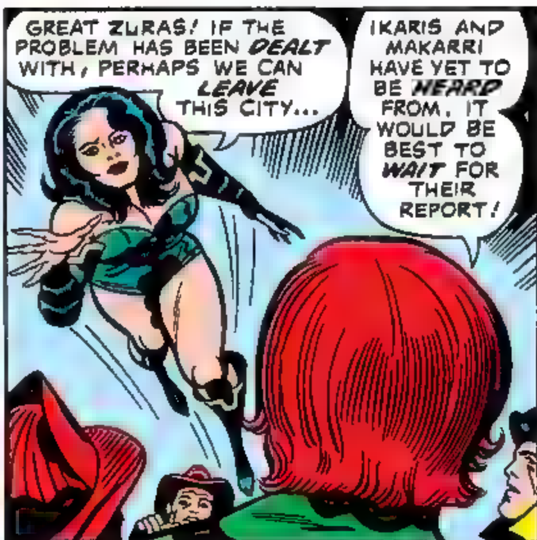


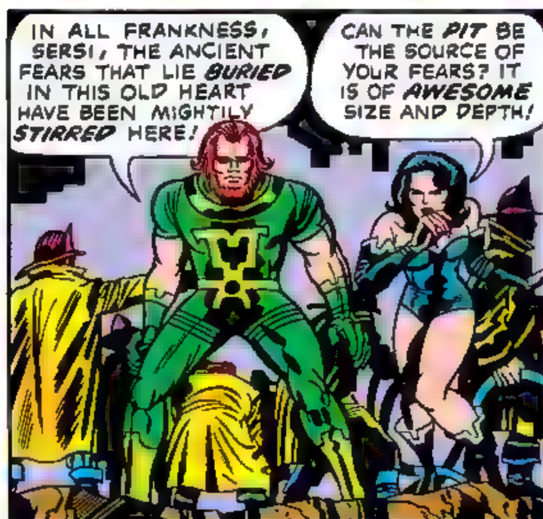


THE COUNTER-BLOW LASTS ONLY SECONDS. IT SNUFFS OUT THE FIERY HOLOCAUST AND IS GONE. A MOTIONLESS CROWD STANDS IN STUNNED SILENCE AT THE EDGE OF ALL THAT IS LEFT: A HUGE, DARK, GAPING PIT...

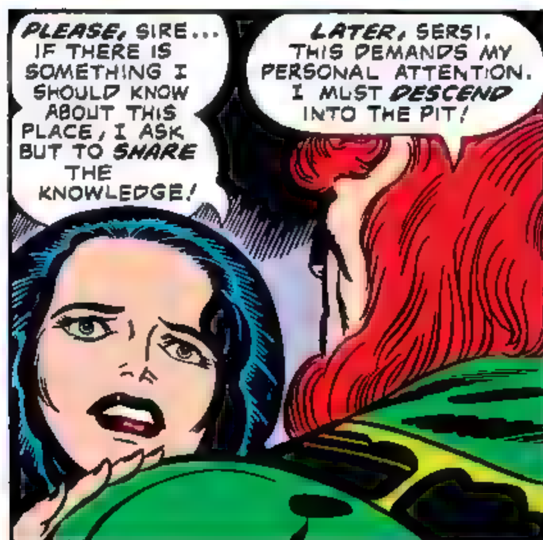



I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, GRANDPA! H-HOW DID YOU DO IT?!
HE'S AN ETERNAL! THEY CAN DO ANYTHING!
THAT TRICK TOOK A THOUSAND YEARS OF PRACTICE!

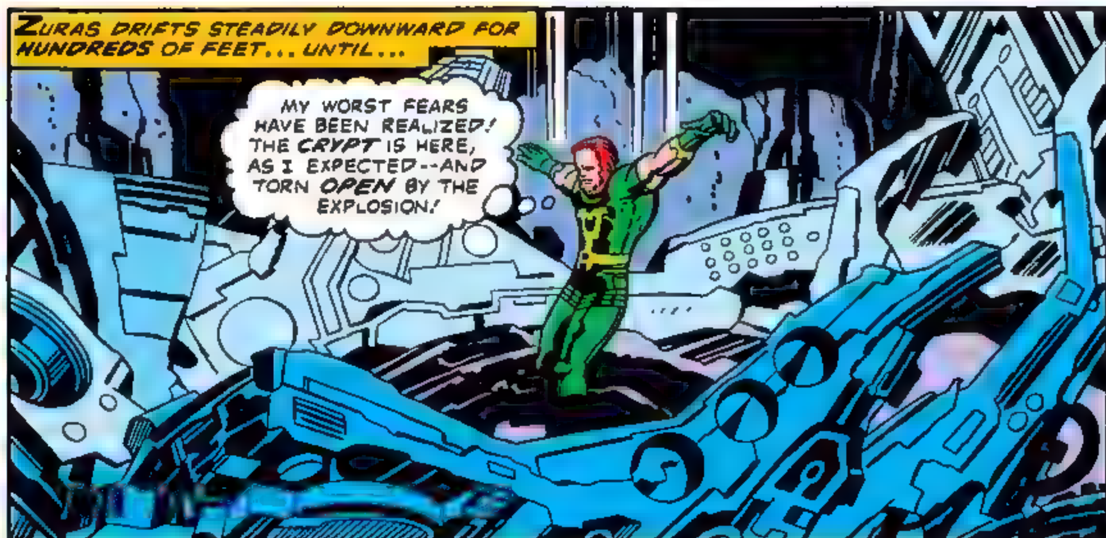

GREAT ZURAS! IF THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN DEALT WITH, PERHAPS WE CAN LEAVE THIS CITY...
IKARIS AND MAKARRI HAVE YET TO BE HEARD FROM. IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT FOR THEIR REPORT!


IN ALL FRANKNESS, SERSI, THE ANCIENT FEARS THAT LIE BURIED IN THIS OLD HEART HAVE BEEN MIGHTILY STIRRED HERE!
CAN THE PIT BE THE SOURCE OF YOUR FEARS? IT IS OF AWESOME SIZE AND DEPTH!


HEED ME, CHILD -- THOUGH YOU'VE SEEN AGES PASS, YOU ARE VERY YOUNG WITHIN THE ETERNAL CONTEXT!
THE SHAFT BELOW WAS FORMED LONG BEFORE YOU CAME INTO BEING!


PLEASE, SIRE... IF THERE IS SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE, I ASK BUT TO SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE!
LATER, SERSI. THIS DEMANDS MY PERSONAL ATTENTION. I MUST DESCEND INTO THE PIT!

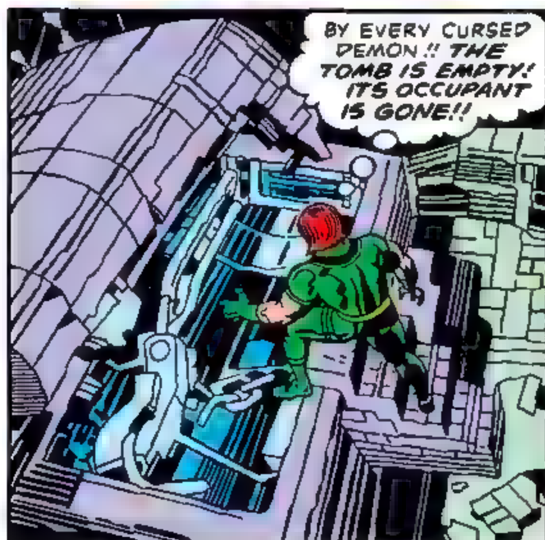

LET ME GO WITH YOU! I WOULD ALSO SHARE THE MYSTERY IN ITS DEPTHS!
I ORDER YOU TO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND WAIT FOR MY RETURN! DO AS I COMMAND!

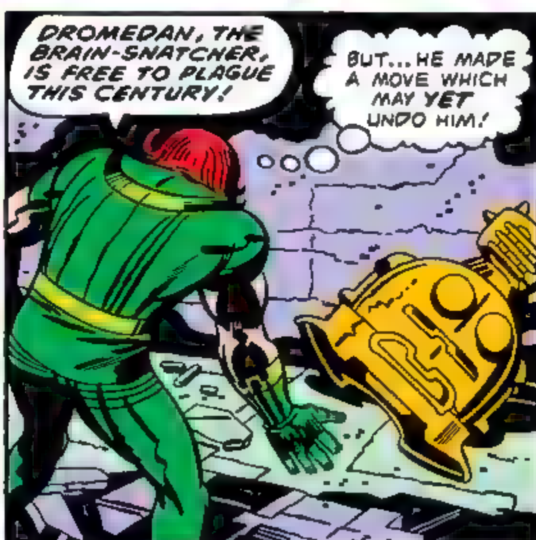


SPURRED BY RISING PANIC, ZURAS HURRIES ON, AS HE LEVITATES HUGE BOULDERS FROM HIS PATH...



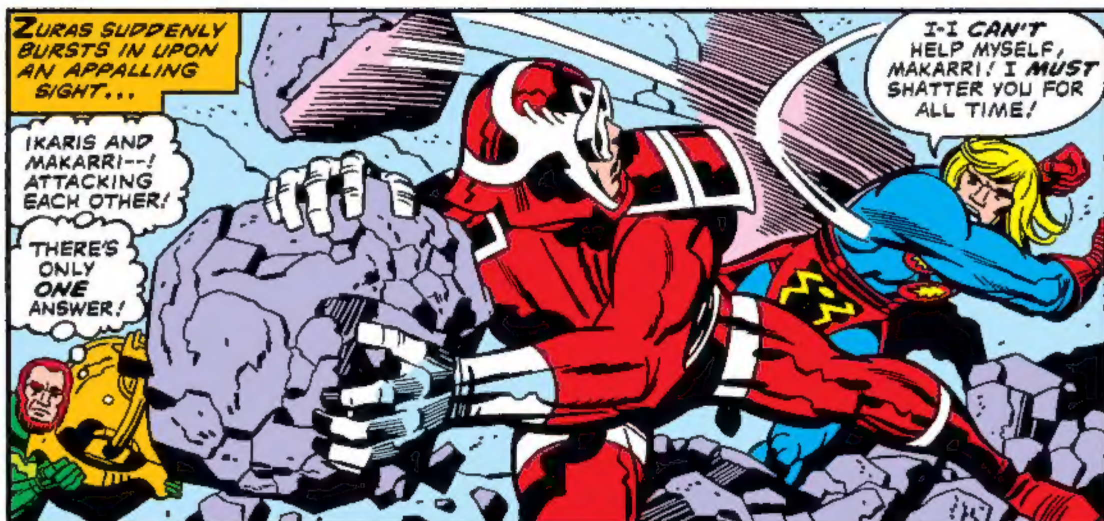


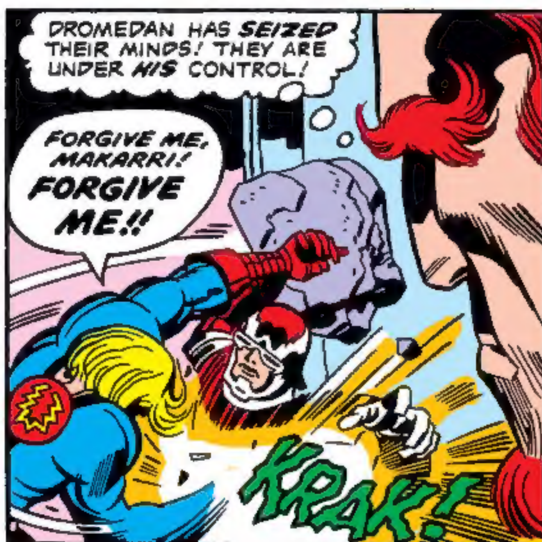





HE'S REMOVED THE HELMET WHICH IMPRISONED THE ENORMOUS ASSAULT POWER OF HIS MIND!
IN MY HANDS, THIS CAN STILL BE THE WEAPON TO CONTAIN HIM!

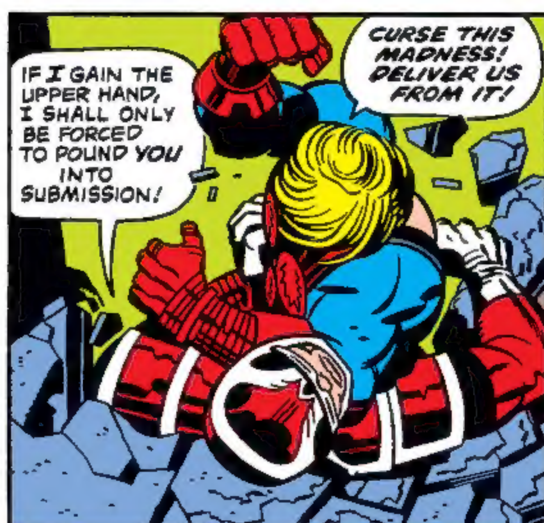

WHEN THE DEVIANT EMPIRE WAS AT ITS HEIGHT, THEY BRED DROMEDAN TO DESTROY THE ETERNALS!
INSTEAD, THEY HAD TO ENTOMB HIM... FOR FEAR OF THEIR OWN SAFETY!

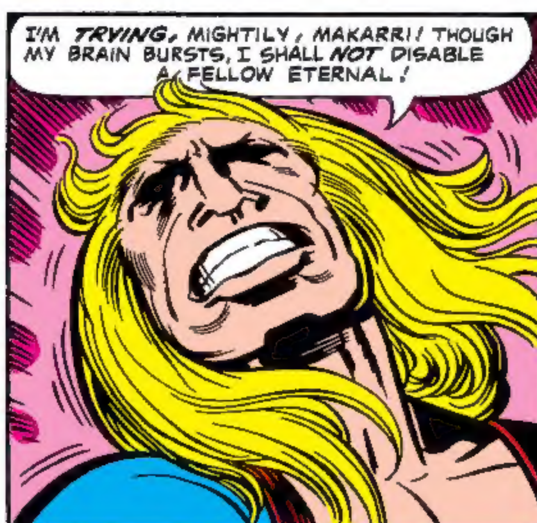

ZURAS SUDDENLY BURSTS IN UPON AN APPALLING SIGHT...
IKARIS AND MAKARRI--! ATTACKING EACH OTHER!
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER!
I-I CAN'T HELP MYSELF, MAKARRI! I MUST SHATTER YOU FOR ALL TIME!


DROMEDAN HAS SEIZED THEIR MINDS! THEY ARE UNDER HIS CONTROL!
FORGIVE ME, MAKARRI! FORGIVE ME!!
KRAK!

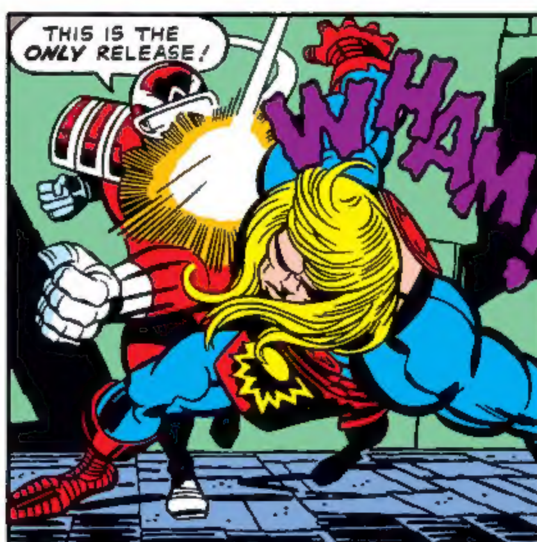

IT IS HORROR TOO GREAT TO BEAR! IF DROMEDAN GAINS HIS FREEDOM, THIS WILL BE REPEATED ON A WORLD-WIDE SCALE!

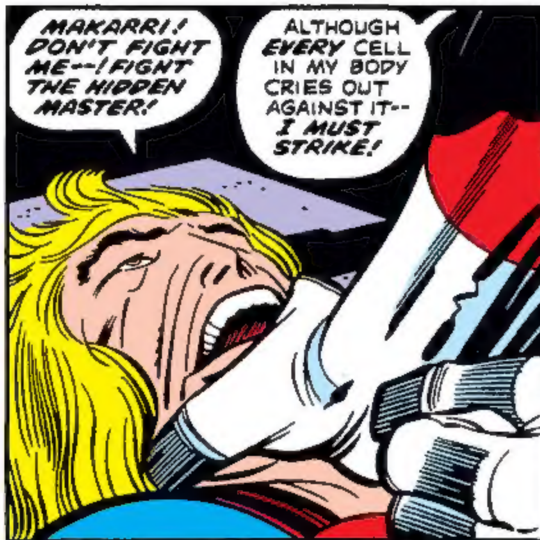
MEANWHILE, IKARIS MAKES A GARGANTUAN EFFORT TO SHAKE OFF THE UNSEEN MIND-CONTROLLER...
YOU TRY IN VAIN, IKARIS! THE COMPULSION IS TOO STRONG!
I WON'T LET THIS HAPPEN! I WON'T!!









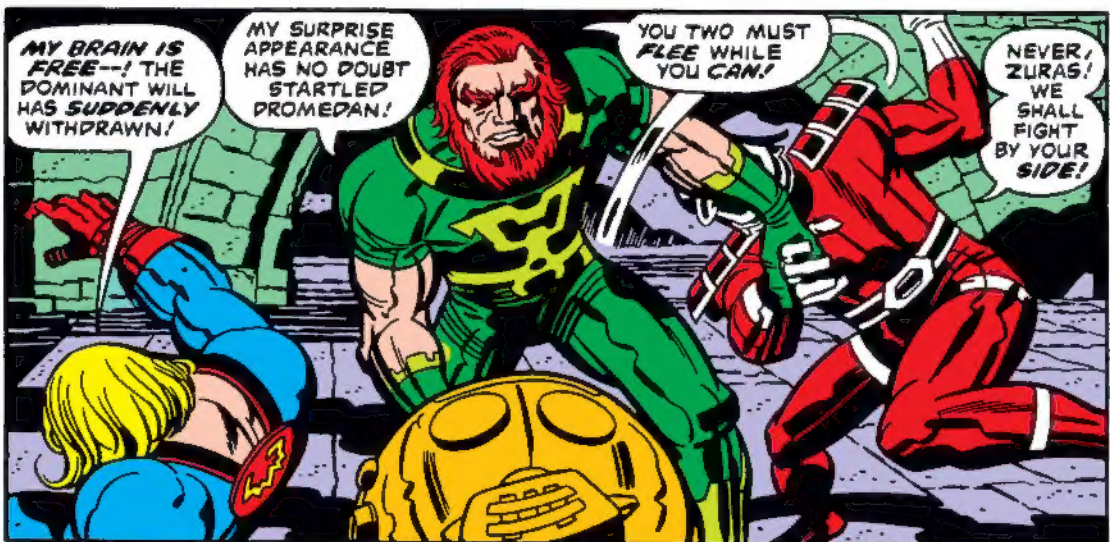




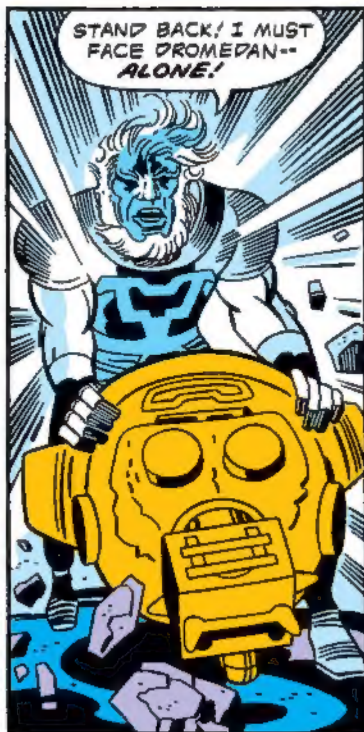
DESPITE HIS DESPERATE INNER STRUGGLE, MAKARRI RAISES HIS KNOTTED FIST...







AT THAT MOMENT, A VIOLENT GUST OF WIND STRIKES ZURAS...









IN A BATTLE BETWEEN MALES, THE DECIDING FACTOR IS ALWAYS AN ANGRY WOMAN... NEXT--

SERSI THE TERRIBLE